

**MAYOR'S ADVISORY GROUP  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2005**

**MINUTES**

Members Present

Joseph Donaldson, Mayor  
Judy Boyer  
Dana Russell  
David Camacho  
Karl Baumgartner  
Tara Green  
Mitch Strohman  
Gene Westerhaus  
Robert Magnuson  
Lee Treece  
Nat White  
Julie Pastrick  
Renee Fauset

Members Absent

Grover Decker  
Ryan Rodriguez  
Coral Evans-Randall  
Stephanie Ludwig  
Stephanie McKinney - excused

Staff Present

Dave Wilcox, City Manager  
MJ McMahon – NAU  
Rich Bowen – NAU  
Jeri Dustir, Deputy City Manager  
Laura Parker

Mayor Donaldson called the meeting to order at 6:50 a.m.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Karl Baumgartner to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2005 meeting. Motion seconded by Judy Boyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Donaldson welcomed group and turned the time over to David Camacho, NAU for the introduction of the subject.

NAU - City of Flagstaff Update:

David Camacho introduced the subject to the members present. Northern Arizona University is a large organization, President Haeger has five Vice-Presidents to assist him. Mr. Camacho turned time over to MJ McMahon. Ms McMahon stated that the One Community is working with the City, GFEC and Chamber of Commerce. She expressed her thanks for the work done by the group on the ABOR redesign project—she stated that Flagstaff came out strong and ended up with a much better position. The Board held a retreat in June—redesign document is approximately 60 pages, the redesign intent was due to large numbers of students. Did a Flagstaff campus response and response from other campuses in Arizona. Responded to 16 questions—information will be available at the ABOR board meeting.

Stated that every quarter the President does a community breakfast—mixes up invites to get a broad group of individuals from the community.

International Program—Many Chinese students attending NAU. President will be traveling to China to see about students coming to Flagstaff and Flagstaff students going to China for a type of exchange program. Chinese students have been very active in the community. Ms. McMahon turned the time over to Rich Bowen, NAU for an update on the conference center.

Mr. Bowen passed out information regarding the conference center. Update on conference center, a lot of good reasons to build a conference center in Flagstaff. Have done studies to see what types of people might be attending conferences in Flagstaff—city clerks, realtors, etc. Could go to a conference then go on vacation. Large enough to accommodate large groups, need a facility larger than what we now offer. Distributed an artists rendering of the proposed conference center. Ideas are in the works for NAU to lease a parcel of land to a hotel developer. Hotel developer would build conference center to the specifications of NAU, presently looking at the far north end of campus as this area would be in close proximity with the downtown area—could be part of the Southside redevelopment plan. Master planning for the conference center project began in 2003—12 major rebuilding projects have been completed on campus. Bulk of the campus was built in the 60's and 70's to meet the needs of an influx of students. Buildings that are approximately 40 years old now need upgrades and renovations. Cost to replace may be more cost effective than renovating. University owns some land south of I-40—100 acres and other parcels around CCC and around the Lone Tree Road area. Possibly build faculty and staff housing—looking to recruit and provide affordable housing. Went to Board in August of 2005 and asked to use Proposition 301 funds—Board agreed and appropriated funds. Struck partnership with Mayor and City Manager to work in partners together. Board is also in support of the hotel plans—looking at approximately 150 rooms, will provide spill over to other hotels. Would be looking for a commercial operations to operate the conference center.

Discussion was held on the information presented, i.e. traffic issues. Milton is already too busy—Lone Tree corridor not on ADOT's 5-year plan. Upcoming milestones—26<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting/Board Meeting 28-30<sup>th</sup> of September. Board meeting is open to the public.

Further discussion was held on the history of the conference center and IGA.

Jeri Dustir, Deputy City Manager reported that Council has provided direction to staff with NAU to look at several areas, i.e., traffic circulation, competitiveness within the community—looking for a level playing field. Significant issue is one of the provisions within the IGA would be to provide having a group look at all aspects of the IGA. Advisory Council, check amount from City could be up to \$2 million. Developer would need to invest \$15 - \$20 million, NAU \$10 million, and \$2 million from the City. \$2 million from City funds were set aside for redevelopment funds—does not need voter approval. Discussion was held on the information presented.

A question was raised as to whether or not there was any opposition being heard and if so, from where? Mayor Donaldson stated that he is not aware of any from either the Council or the public—no comments were made at the last meeting.

Karl Baumgartner stated that he feels there is no better time than now. Need to promote more about what activities are available in Flagstaff. Project is going to create bigger traffic pressures than before, however, new subdivisions planned for west of Flagstaff will greatly impact traffic.

Information regarding the Arizona Cardinals was also discussed. Arizona Cardinals has held their training camp in Flagstaff for the past 18 seasons with the exception of this season. Approximately \$2 million dollars are generated from the AZ Cardinals being in Flagstaff. Presently working on getting Cardinals to return. NAU President has to negotiate final contract. Dave Brown will be heading up efforts, as the Cardinals are also negotiating with Prescott. Can negotiate a three-year contract due to ABOR policy. Fundraising luncheon was recently held in Phoenix—Flagstaff played a major role in supporting the luncheon. Questions were raised as to how Prescott could compete with the Dome. Information that Prescott doing a ground breaking on a Jr. Hockey rink in May, included in the proposal is information that in one year there will be an indoor facility. Question was raised as to whether or not there would be other NFL teams interested such as the Cowboys, or professional soccer teams. Altitude is a positive thing for training, other major teams may be interested.

#### Upcoming Meeting Topics:

Mayor will be out of town during October – next meeting will be November 15.

Topic for discussion will center around the Milton/Corridor traffic issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 am.